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Questions in The Ovarian Cancer Forum are being answered by medical professionals from
The Cleveland Clinic, consistently ranked one of the best hospitals in America.

Subject: stage one clear cell ovarian cancer

Topic Area: Ovarian Cancer Types

Forum: The Ovarian Cancer Forum

Question Posted By: oop on Tuesday, January 07, 2003

my adult daughter has just had hysterectomy surgery, is stage one, but told has some clear cell biopsy. what is clear cell, what is best chemo treatment, or alternative treatments? need second opinion consultant. Also, interested in heat and / or oxygen therapy for ovarian cancers. who and where available? Lasdon, slx30@aol.com.

Answer Posted By: CCF-RN,MSN-JS on Wednesday, January 08, 2003

Dear Lasdon, The most common type of ovarian cancer is epithelial cancer - this type of cancer arises from the cells covering the surface of the ovary. Clear cell is one of the five major cell types of epithelial carcinoma. Epithelial carcinomas are further divided into grades, according to how virulent they appear on microscopic examination. The grading scale is 0-3. Grade 0 are tumors of low malignant potential, also known as borderline tumors. A Grade 3 is a poorly differentiated tumor (the cells are very different in appearance than the original ovarian cell). The prognosis for a grade 3 tumor is worse than for a Grade 1 or 2.

Staging of the cancer is based on the site and size of the tumor, whether there is lymph node involvement and if there is evidence of metastasis (spread) to distant areas (this is TNM staging). Stage one cancer is confined to one or both ovaries, and is further divided into 1a,1b or 1c.

Treatment of stage one cancer depends primarily on the age of the patient and grade of the cancer. As your daughter has had the surgery, this may be all the treatment needed with Stage 1a borderline or Grade 1 carcinoma. Standard therapy with Grade 2 or 3 tumors is total hysterectomy, removal of both tubes and ovaries, meticulous surgical staging and six month cycles of combination chemotherapy usually with cisplatin or carboplatin and Taxol. The prognosis for stage one cancer is good, again depending on type, grade and substage.

Regarding a second opinion, you would want to check for gynecologist oncologist or medical oncologist with an specialty interest in gynecologic cancers. I do not have information regarding the use of heat and/or oxygen therapy for ovarian cancers.

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